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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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PATENT
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Applicant: Cepeda

Art Unit: 3623

Serial No.: 09/731,161

Examiner: Michael C. Heck

Filed: December 6, 2000

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR
ALLOCATING OPERATING
EXPENSES

RECEIVED

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GROUP 3600

AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

In response to the Office Action dated February 25, 2003, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 9, and ending on page 2, line 24, with the following replacement paragraph.

More specifically, the CAMS utilizes a web-based interactive database to automate the process for allocating operating expenses. The system includes a client system including a browser, a data storage device for storing information, and a server system configured to be coupled to the client system and the database. The system receives business information, stores the business information, cross-references the business information against unique identifiers into a centralized database, updates the centralized database with revised business information, and provides various management reports that track operating expenses by various products and processes in response to an inquiry. The system captures all business information and provides on-line, up-to-date information upon a user request. In one exemplary embodiment, the system utilizes a Structured Query Language (SQL) server database with a client user interface front-end for administration and a web interface for standard user inputs and reports. The system includes